transport rebate. As such, sugar factories are required to pay cane price for the said sugar season in accordance with the said interim order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The matter, at present, is sub-judice.

Shift farming for ethanol based fuel

1300. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the hasty and misguided shift farming for ethanol based fuel is creating a havoc in the farming sector;

(b) if so, whether Government has assessed the figures *i.e.* how much maize and other cereals would be diverted for the purpose;

(c) whether world food prices have jumped a massive 75 per cent since 2005, and

(d) if so, what has been its impact on food security of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No Sir. In India alcohol or ethanol is basically manufactured from molasses, a by-product of the sugar industry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) International prices of wheat increased substantially in 2007 and 2008. Since April, 2008, the global wheat prices have shown a softening trend. However, the high global wheat prices do not seem to have had any direct impact on the food security of the country as the Government supplemented the domestic stock with import of wheat.

Procurement of Foodgrains

1301. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains procured by FCI directly during 2007-08 and 2008-09 upto 30th September, 2008;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains procured by the State Government agencies during 2007-08 and 2008-09;

(c) the quantity of foodgrains procured by the non-Government domestic and foreign organizations during 2008-09 with the names of the organizations; and

(d) the reasons of procurement by non-Government organizations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The quantity of wheat and rice procured by FCI and the State agencies in the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2007-08 and 2008-09 and Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2007-08 and 2008-09 is as follows:

(in lakh tonnes)

	Marketing	Year FCI	State Agencies	Total	
Wheat	RMS	2007-08	15.39	95.89	111.28
	RMS	2008-09	52.88	173.94	226.82
Rice	KMS	2007-08	123.97	160.32	284.29
	KMS	2008-09*	15.28	108.40	123.68

* as on 8.12.2008.

(c) The data on quantity of foodgrains procured by the non-Government domestic and foreign organizations is not maintained.

(d) Under the existing policy, the Central Government extends price support to foodgrains through the Government agencies (Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies). Foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications offered for sale at specified centres are bought by the public procurement agencies. The farmers have the option to sell their produce either to FCI/State Agencies at Minimum Support Price, or to the private parties, as is advantageous to them.

Commercial utilization of unutilized property of FCI

1302. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal for commercial utilization of the unutilized property of Food Corporation of India lying in the form of land and buildings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Malpractices in PDS

1303. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of PDS outlets/ration dealers in the country;

(b) how many ration dealers were sentenced with imprisonment for malpractices/ misappropriation/ selling/ diverting the items in open market, during last three years and whether PDS grain worth Rs. 31,585.98 crore has been stolen;

(c) the persons arrested/prosecuted/convicted/FIRs filed during last three years, for malpractices under PDS;

(d) the detention orders made by the State Governments during last three years for hoarding, black-marketing etc. of PDS commodities under Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980;